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ABSTRACT

In this questionnaire, fifty-two statements related to attitudes concerning race, sex, and multicultural education are presented. Spaces are provided for respondents (school personnel) to register their agreement or disagreement with the statements. The questions are designed to stimulate discussions between groups and to help to establish program goals in school systems. (MI)

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AN OPINIONNAIRE ON RACE, SEX, AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION for SCHOOL PERSONNEL

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The Purpose: This is an Opinion Finder, and does not ask for respondents to state facts. The intent is to secure a composite picture of how people employed in a given school or school system feel and think about the statements presented here.

The Opinionnaire will not only help to identify what people think and feel, but when its results are collated and publicized it can be used to stimulate discussion between people and groups. It may also be helpful in establishing program goals, in cases where there is a clear indication of need.

How to Use the Opinionnaire:

1. Circulate it among the categories of people in your school or school system from whom you would like response, including instructions for returning the completed form.

2. Provide for a way in which people can return the completed form so that anonymity is assured.

3. Ask for data about the respondents by categories suggested on the back page. You may want to change or add to the categories listed there to meet peculiar needs of your school or system.

4. After the responses are collated be sure to report the results widely to all who were asked to submit responses.

5. Analyze the collated responses and evaluate them for use in setting goals for what you want to do in your school or school system.

6. Respondents are asked to check under the appropriate column whether they "Strongly Agree", "Agree", "Disagree", or "Strongly Disagree" with each statement.

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	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
1. I would like to see teachers develop a curriculum that explores ethnic/cultural similarities and differences.....				
2. I have heard ethnic/racist jokes and remarks by teachers at my school.....				
3. It is possible for a woman to manage both a home and an outside career and do justice to them both.....				
4. I feel more comfortable with people of my own ethnic and racial background.....				
5. Girls have better manners than boys.....				
6. There are few minority students in our school, therefore, racism is not a problem we have to address.....				
7. There are no genetically based differences in the way men and women think.....				
8. The racial balance in the student body of my school is satisfactory.....				
9. Girls fighting bothers me more than boys fighting.....				
10. Blacks and Native American Indians are seldom found in prominent roles in history books because they made little contribution to American Society.....				
11. Guidelines for evaulating multi-cultural, non-sexist, materials are widely known and utilized in our school.....				
12. The administration of my school system is committed to multi-cultural education.....				

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
13. Minority children must adopt the values of the dominant culture if they are to make it in this society.....				
14. I have heard sexist comments made by teachers in my school.....				
15. I would like to see teachers develop a curriculum that explores the expansion of sex-role options for boys and girls.....				
16. I would prefer to work with a male principal, superintendent or department head rather than a female in those positions.....				
17. If a woman does not stay home with her children until they are of school age, the children are likely to have emotional problems.....				
18. Other minority groups have "made it" in American society; there is no reason why Blacks and Hispanics can't do the same if they are patient and try.....				
19. The balance of men and women administrators in our school system is satisfactory.....				
20. Girls are more talkative than boys.....				
21. Making boys sit next to girls and vice versa is a good device to control children with behavior problems.....				
22. Bilingual education programs are anti-American and should be discontinued.....				
23. Girls should not be expected to prepare to support themselves financially when they grow up.....				

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
24. Discussion of ethnic, religious, racial and cultural diversity should be an important part of the standard curriculum.....				
25. Most teachers assign tasks to students (moving furniture, handling AV equipment, collecting money, delivering messages) without regard for the child's sex.....				
26. Assertive and competitive women are unfeminine.....				
27. Girls write neater papers than boys.....				
28. I consider the staff of my school basically non-racist.....				
29. It is just as important to educate daughters as sons.....				
30. The administration of my school system is committed to the elimination of sexism.....				
31. Children of racial minorities exhibit more behavioral problems in school than white children.....				
32. Racism is a major problem in society which should be addressed in school.....				
33. The reason women are not mentioned much in history books is because their contributions have generally been minor ones.....				
34. I would appreciate help in updating currently used classroom materials to make them less sexist and less racist.....				
35. Multi-cultural education can take place in a school where the student population is mostly white.....				

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
36. I would like to see teacher workshops on expanding career options for boys and girls.....				
37. White students are better prepared to learn in school than children of other races.....				
38. Self exploration by teachers of attitudes and feelings about sexual and racial stereotyping is relevant to being a competent educator.....				
39. Boys are generally better in math and science than girls.....				
40. Affirmative Action is an appropriate way for a school system to recruit more women and minority staff and teachers.....				
41. I consider the staff at my school bascially non-sexist.....				
42. Sexism is a major problem in society which should be addressed in school.....				
43. Anyone who is well prepared for a career can expect to find a good job and advance as far as their abilities can take them.....				
44. Girls' athletic programs should be based on team cooperation, and doing one's best to contribute to team performance.....				
45. The reason minority persons are not hired for top positions is that qualified minorities are hard to find.....				
46. The "melting pot" idea is racist and should not be encouraged.....				
47. If enrollment in a cooking class is limited, first priority should go to girls.....				

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
48. If enrollment in an industrial arts class is limited, boys should be given preference.....				
49. I would like to see teacher workshops on multi-cultural education.....				
50. Learning abilities of students cannot be predicted by race.....				
51. There are different cognitive patterns and ways of learning between the races.....				
52. Boys' athletic programs should emphasize the qualities they will need in later life -- aggressiveness and competitiveness.....				

Please check the categories into which you fall, as listed below:

_____ Male _____ Female

_____ White _____ Black _____ Asian _____ Native American Indian

_____ Other race designation

_____ Administrator
_____ School Board/Committee
_____ Teacher
_____ Specialist
_____ Other Staff

This Opinionnaire was prepared originally by Ronnie Ventura, a school psychologist who works with students between the ages of four and thirteen and who has been on workshop leadership teams for Community Change, Inc. Horace Seldon, the Executive Director of Community Change has assisted Ronnie, and the Opinionnaire has been reviewed by Natalie Miller, formerly on the staff of the Mass. Department of Education and a friend of Community Change.

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